

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,054,974) in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,268,840). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 are each amended to recite that the first and second cycles consist of a reset period, a selection period, and a holding period. Further, Claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite that the third cycle consists of a reset period and a holding period. Lastly, Claims 1 and 2 are each amended to recite that the fourth cycle consists of a reset period. Please see Figures 5 and 6 of the present application. No new matter is added.

Neither Sakai nor Huang teach or suggest the device of Claim 1, nor the driving method of Claim 2. That is, Sakai merely teaches a method for driving line electrodes and data electrodes, wherein when the line electrodes are driven by a line electrode driver, each liquid crystal cell goes into a cholesteric phase, and when the data electrodes are driven by a data electrode driver, each liquid crystal cell goes into a nematic phase. See column 10, line 65 to column 11, line 8. This is different from the claimed invention because the claimed invention is directed to driving only a cholesteric liquid crystal. Because the claimed invention is directed to only a cholesteric liquid

crystal, the claimed invention uses 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cycles that change the orientation of the cholesteric liquid crystal between H-, F-, and TP-orientations. Because Sakai teaches a phase transition type liquid crystal panel (e.g., a panel where the liquid crystal may be driven between either a cholesteric or nematic phase), Sakai is not concerned with changing the orientation of the liquid crystal between H-, F-, and TP-orientations and, in fact, is completely silent regarding cycles that change the orientations of the cholesteric liquid crystal.

Moreover, because Sakai teaches a phase transition type liquid crystal, Applicants respectfully assert that it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of Sakai with the teachings of Huang because the pipeline method as taught by Huang is not needed in Sakai. That is, Sakai does not need to drive its liquid crystal using a pipeline method because it can switch between a cholesteric phase and a nematic phase. Notwithstanding, assuming arguendo that it is proper to combine the teachings of Sakai with the teachings of Huang, Applicants respectfully assert that the pipeline method of Huang is different from that of the claimed invention. In this regard, in contrast to first and second cycles that consist of a reset period, a selection period, and a holding period, Huang teaches cycles including a preparation stage (i.e., a reset period), a selection stage, an evolution stage, and a holding stage. Because the claimed invention does not use an evolution stage, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of Sakai and Huang still fails to yield the claimed device and driving method. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 are not obvious and believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, therefore, are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 28, 2009

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